



WHITESTOWN MUNICIPAL COMPLEX

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WFD ACQUIRES NEW QUINT TRUCK & STARTS AMBULANCE SERVICE IN SAME WEEK

Whitestown Fire Dept. 1st in Boone Co. to Have Two Ladder Trucks

Whitestown, Ind. – It's been a big week for the fast-growing Whitestown Fire Department.

On Tuesday, WFD took a huge step forward with the implementation of its new ALS transporting ambulance service (picture of new ambulance attached). Just two days later, the department's second ladder truck arrived (see attached pictures) and was put in-service. All as we continue to hire for our growing department.

The two new vehicles represent a substantial improvement to the already stellar service our firefighters provide daily to our growing number of residents.

AMBULANCE SERVICE: As recently as 3 years ago, WFD didn't even utilize paramedics. Now, 40% of department members are licensed paramedics and the department provides ALS service from two stations. The new ALS transport ambulance means paramedics now have a dedicated vehicle for transporting patients without relying on outside agencies.

QUINT TRUCK: The department's new quint truck gives the department more flexibility on fire runs. A quint truck, or quintuple combination pumper, is a fire service apparatus that serves the dual purpose of an engine and a ladder truck. The name *quint* is derived from a Latin prefix meaning five, and refers to the five functions that a quint provides: pump, water tank, fire hose, aerial device, and ground ladders. Whitestown is the first community in Boone County to have two ladder trucks. It's both significant and necessary with the number of multi-story buildings being built here. By the end of 2016, Whitestown will be home to three, 4-story hotels. A new senior living community and memory care center will have a 4-story and a 2-story building. And several of our existing businesses are multi-story facilities as well. "Having two aerial apparatus provides a

tremendous asset to our community. This allows for an engine and ladder from our department to be on each fire response in all areas of our district, gives us a back-up aerial device if one were to be out of service for maintenance, and perhaps most importantly, the efficiency of having an apparatus capable of dual roles with our limited staffing at this point in time.” says WFD Fire Chief Josh Westrich. “Starting up our ALS transporting service has been a monumental step for us. With the growth the community has seen, and continues to see, it became a necessity in our opinion to be able to provide this service to our citizens, and continue to decrease our reliance on mutual aid.”

HIRING: In addition to the two new pieces of firefighting equipment, WFD is also wrapping up a hiring process this week with plans of hiring additional full-time firefighters in 2016. WFD hired its first full time members in 2009. But although we’ve been a career department for just 6 years, the average experience of our firefighters is almost 10 years each in the fire service. Interviews were conducted Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of more than 60 qualified applicants, some from other states, who want to come work and serve in Whitestown. The new hires will join the department in early 2016.

DIVERSITY: WFD is proud to have a diverse department. Currently, our numbers reflect that we are 20% minorities and female firefighters. While some departments in the state are getting headlines for hiring their first female firefighter, we’ve already had one female earn her rank as one of six Lieutenants. Compared to the demographics of the area we cover, this is an outstandingly diverse ratio. And it should be noted that WFD has never had any hiring policy or practice to promote this diversity, simply the goal of hiring only the best firefighters and paramedics available.

Fast Facts:

- Whitestown has been the fastest growing community in Indiana 4 years in a row
- A population of about 3,000 in 2010 has swelled to about 5,500 residents, with the projected population expected to reach 12,000 residents by the next census in 2020

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